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A Denial Of Garrison Entrapment

New Orleans, La.

The man who supervised the federal gambling case against New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison denied yesterday that the Justice Department had forced a Garrison aide into entrapping the district attorney.

Monday, Pershing Gervais was quoted as saying he was forced by what he called calculated harassment to work and lie for the government. He said that he had been suecessful in "getting Garrison."

Tom Kennelly, former deputy chief of the department's organized crime and racketeering division, said yesterday that Gervais became an informer with no strings attached and that his testimony was not needed to prosecute Garrison.

Associated Press